II. *An uncommon* Dropſy *from the Want of a Kidney; and a Deſcription of a large* Saccus *that contain'd the Water, by* Samuel Glaſs, *Surgeon, at* Oxford; *ſent to Dr.* Mead.

November 11, 1746.

Read Jan. 8. 1746-7.

MARY *Nix*, who lived at *Hampton-Poyle*, a ſmall Village in *Oxfordſhire*, had been remarkable all her Life for the preternatural Size of her Belly. After her Death, I had the Curioſity, together with ſome learned Gentlemen of the Univerſity, to inſpect her Body. Her Mother was then preſent, and inform'd us, that this her Daughter was born dropſical; that ſhe herſelf had been ill of the ſame Diſeaſe for ſome time before, and during, her Pregnancy; but, on the Birth of this Child, ſhe was freed from that Diſorder.

The Child, tho' born dropſical, prov'd otherwiſe healthy; and, notwithſtanding the Diſeaſe continually increaſed as ſhe grew up, liv'd to be near twenty-three Years of Age.

She was a tall well-proportion'd Woman, except with Regard to the enormous Size of her Belly; and, for one of ſo unwieldy a Bulk, healthy, briſk, and active. Her Appetite was always good, and ſhe was never more than ordinarily thirſty; had no remarkable Difficulty of Breathing, not even when ſhe lay ſupine, nor did her Thighs or Legs ever ſwell. Her *Menſes*, which appear'd at the uſual Time of Life, continued regular, till within eight Months of her Death. The only Complaint was now-and then a

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Pain in making Water; and the Quantity ſhe made was commonly about four or five Ounces.

Upon the Suppreſſion of her *Catamenia*, there ſucceeded a *Dyſpnœa*, Loſs of Appetite, Emaciation of the ſuperior Parts, and a Tumefaction of one of her Legs with Ulcerations. Theſe Symptoms gradually increaſed till her Death.

Upon taking the Dimenſions of her Body before Diſſection, we found the Circumference of her *Abdomen* to be juſt ſix Feet four Inches, and from the *Xyphoid* Cartilage to the *Os Pubis* it meaſur'd four Feet and half an Inch. The cutaneous Veſſels, diſtributed upon the *Abdomen*, were remarkably large, and diſtended with Blood, and the ſpurious Ribs were preſſed greatly outwards and upwards.

After this general View of the external Parts, we began the Diſſection, by dividing the Cartilages of the ſix ſuperior Ribs, and raiſing the *Sternum*. The *Thorax* being laid open, we obſerved that the Diaphragm was forcibly protruded into that Cavity. The Baſe of the Heart lay under the right Clavicle, and its *Apex* upon the moſt convex Part of the Diaphragm; which Convexity advanced as high up as the third ſuperior Rib. The Lungs were ſurpriſingly ſmall, ſcarce exceeding in Magnitude thoſe of a new-born Child. The right Lobe ſlightly adher'd to the *Pleura*, the left was free, and both were in a ſound State. Within the *Pericardium* was found, as uſual, a ſmall Quantity of Liquor, but none in the Cavity of the *Thorax*.

We next perforated the *Abdomen* in the moſt convenient depending Part, and evacuated from thence a ſurpriſing Quantity of Water, which was lightly tinged

tinged of a Coffee-Colour, limpid as Urine, and not in the leaſt fetid. This Water was carefully meaſur'd, and found to be not above a Pint leſs than thirty Gallons Wine Meaſure; which muſt weigh, according to the common Calculation, near 240 *l.*

We afterwards made an Inciſion into the *Abdomen* along the *Linea alba*. The Integuments upon the epigaſtric Region were very thin; the abdominal Muſcles much extenuated; and above the *Umbilicus* the *Tunica celluloſa* contain'd no Fat; but from the Navel to the *Os Pubis*, the *Panniculus adipoſus* was half an Inch thick. Upon dilating the Inciſion, the large membranous Bag that contain'd the Water preſented itſelf to View, adhering tranſverſly about ten Inches to the anterior Part of the *Peritonæum*.

This Adheſion being ſeparated, we had a full View of this wonderful Reſervoir, which was of an enormous Size, and had almoſt occupied the whole Cavity of the *Abdomen*. In Figure, Colour, Thickneſs, Number, Magnitude, and Diſtribution of Blood veſſels, it very much reſembled the *Uterus* of a Cow at the End of Geſtation. The whole Inſide was ſcabrous, and look'd as if parboil'd; and here and there was obſerv'd a ſmall Quantity of a Coffee-colour'd Sediment. On the left inferior Part was diſcover'd the Orifice of a Duct, which open'd obliquely into the Cavity of the *Saccus*, and would eaſily admit of a large Gooſe-Quill. From this Opening the Tube advanc'd about twelve Inches between the Membranes of the Bag obliquely upwards, and towards the right, from whence it was inflected downwards, and paſs'd between the Duplicature of the

the *Ligamentum latum Uteri*, to be inſerted into the Bladder of Urine. The *Saccus* was connected to the *Ligamentum ſuſpenſorium Hepatis*, to a conſiderable Part of the *Meſocolon*, to the *Peritonæum* on the right Side in two or three different Places, to the ſame Membrane the whole Length of the Spine, and to the *Ligamentum latum Uteri* on the right Side of the Body.

The Liver was ſound, but leſs than in a natural State; and its convex Part adher'd cloſely to the Diaphragm. The Stomach, Spleen, *Omentum*, ſmall Inteſtines, and the upper Part of the *Colon*, were thruſt very high up into the left *Hypochondrium*. The Convolutions of the lower Part of the ſame Inteſtine were intirely obliterated; and that, together with the *Rectum*, formed one continued ſtrait Tube, from the left *Hypochondrium* down to the *Anus*. The left Kidney, with its emulgent Veſſels and *Ureter*, were in their natural State and Situation. The *Uterus*, *Tuba Fallopiana*, and *Ovarium*, on the ſame Side, had nothing preternatural; but, on the right Side, the *Fallopian* Tube and Ovary were diſpos'd in a very extraordinary Manner. The Tube, by means of the Adheſion of the *Ligamentum latum Uteri* to the *Saccus*, was extended to three times its ordinary Length. The Ovary was likewiſe, by the ſame Cauſe, render'd very preternatural, being no leſs than five Inches three Quarters long, one Inch broad, two Tenths of an Inch thick, and two Inches and half diſtant from the *Uterus*. The Bladder of Urine was very ſmall, but appear'd to be ſound.

We then made an accurate Search for the right Kidney; but, to our great Surprize, found no ſuch *Viſcus*, nor any thing analogous to it, unleſs the *Saccus* that contain'd the Water already deſcrib'd, may be eſteemed ſuch: And what ſeem'd to favour this Opinion, was the Diſpoſition of the emulgent Veſſels on the right Side, which were propagated from the *Aorta* and *Vena cava* to this *Saccus*, in the ſame manner as to the Kidney on the oppoſite Side; and, after having ran twelve or fourteen Inches between the Membranes of the Bag without any Ramifications, were diſtributed all over it in the Manner before-mention'd.

From the foregoing Account the following Queries are naturally ſuggeſted, which I leave to the Determination of the Learned:

Query 1. Was not the *Saccus* originally a mis-ſhapen Kidney, and the Duct a *Ureter?*

Query 2. Was not the Water contained in the *Saccus* prevented from growing putrid, by being continually drain'd off thro' the Duct into the Bladder of Urine, and by being afreſh ſupplied by the emulgent Artery; and more being ſecreted than was evacuated, the Quantity thereby continually increaſed?

Query 3. Was not this the Reaſon why the Patient had never any anaſarcous Swellings of her Thighs or Legs, nor any Thirſt, or other Signs of a confirm'd Dropſy?

Query 4. Were not the Lungs prevented from growing by the great Diminution of the Cavity of the *Thorax*, and the Preſſure they ſuſtain'd from the diſtended *Abdomen?* And might not their never having occupied a larger Space than they did at Birth, be the Reaſon ſhe never labour'd under any Difficulty of Breathing?

Query 5. Was not the Bladder of Urine likewiſe by the ſuperincumbent Weight, prevented from dilating itſelf; and that the Reaſon why the Water was often made, and always in ſo ſmall a Quantity?

In order to convey a more clear Idea of the ſeveral Parts already deſcrib'd, to thoſe who may not have an Opportunity of ſeeing them (they being properly preſerved for that Purpoſe), and being ſenſible of the great Difficulty of clearly repreſenting by Words ſuch Things as are out of the ordinary Courſe of Nature, I muſt beg Leave to refer the Reader to the Figures hereto annex'd.

See TAB. I.

FIG. 1.

aaaa, The great *Saccus* that contain'd the Water.
bb, The greater Diameter of the *Saccus*.
cc, The leſſer Diameter.
d, A prick'd Line ſhews the Entrance of the emulgent Veſſels.
ef, Shews the Courſe of the Duct between the Membranes of the *Saccus*.
f, The Orifice opening obliquely into the Cavity.
eg, The inflected Part of the Duct, after its Egreſs from the *Saccus*, which paſſed between the *Ligamentum latum Uteri* to the Bladder of Urine.
g, The Duct, divided near the Bladder, where its Cavity was ſo ſmall as only to admit of a common-ſiz'd Probe.

FIG. 2.

Repreſents the poſterior View of the *Uterus, Fallopian* Tubes, and Ovary.

aa, The *Uterus*.
A, The *Os Tineæ*.
bc, The *Fallopian* Tube in a natural State.
c, The *Morſus Diaboli*.
d, The left Ovary in a natural State.
ee, The *Ligamentum rotundum*.
fg, The right *Fallopian* Tube.
g, The *Morſus Diaboli*.
hh, The right Ovary.
ii, The *Ligamentum rotundum*.
kkkk, The *Ligamentum latum Uteri*.
ll, Its Adheſion to the *Saccus*.

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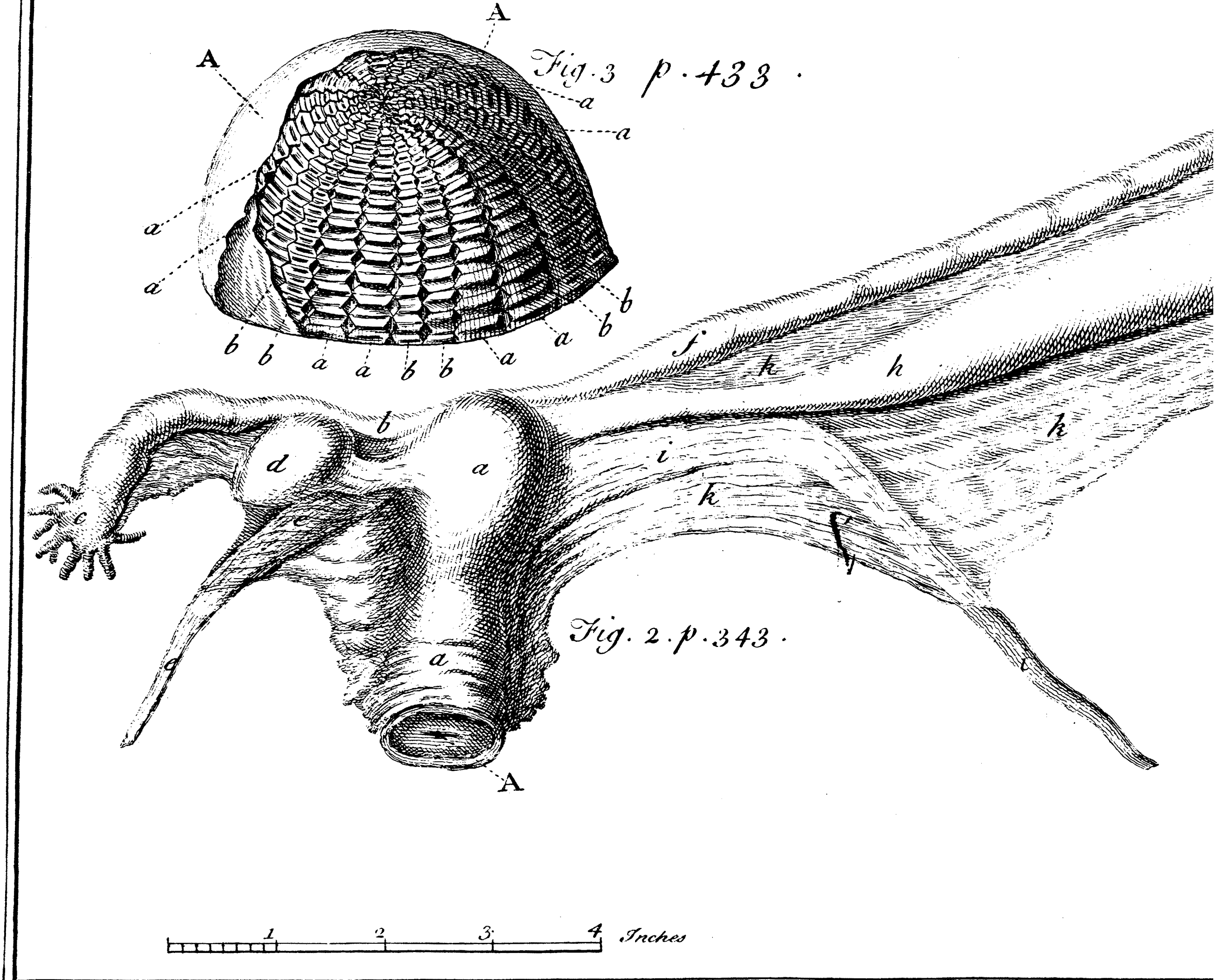

Fig. 3 p. 433.

Fig. 2. p. 343.

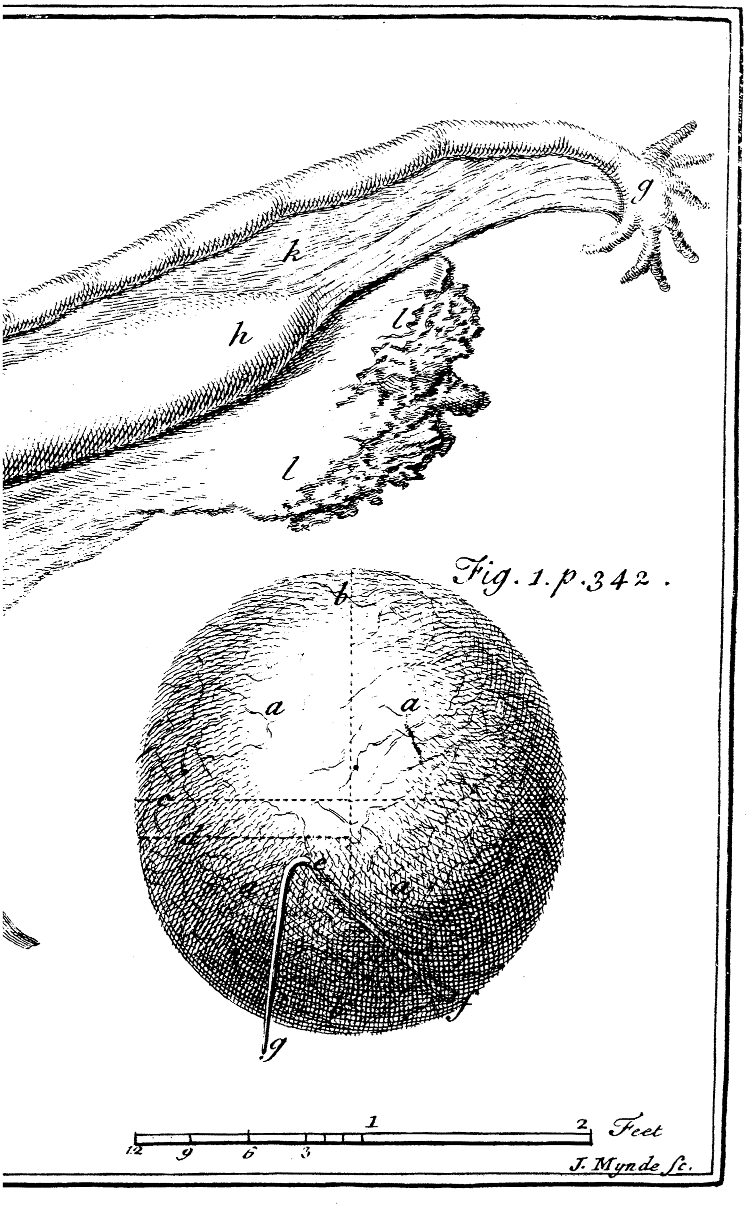

Fig. 1. p. 342.

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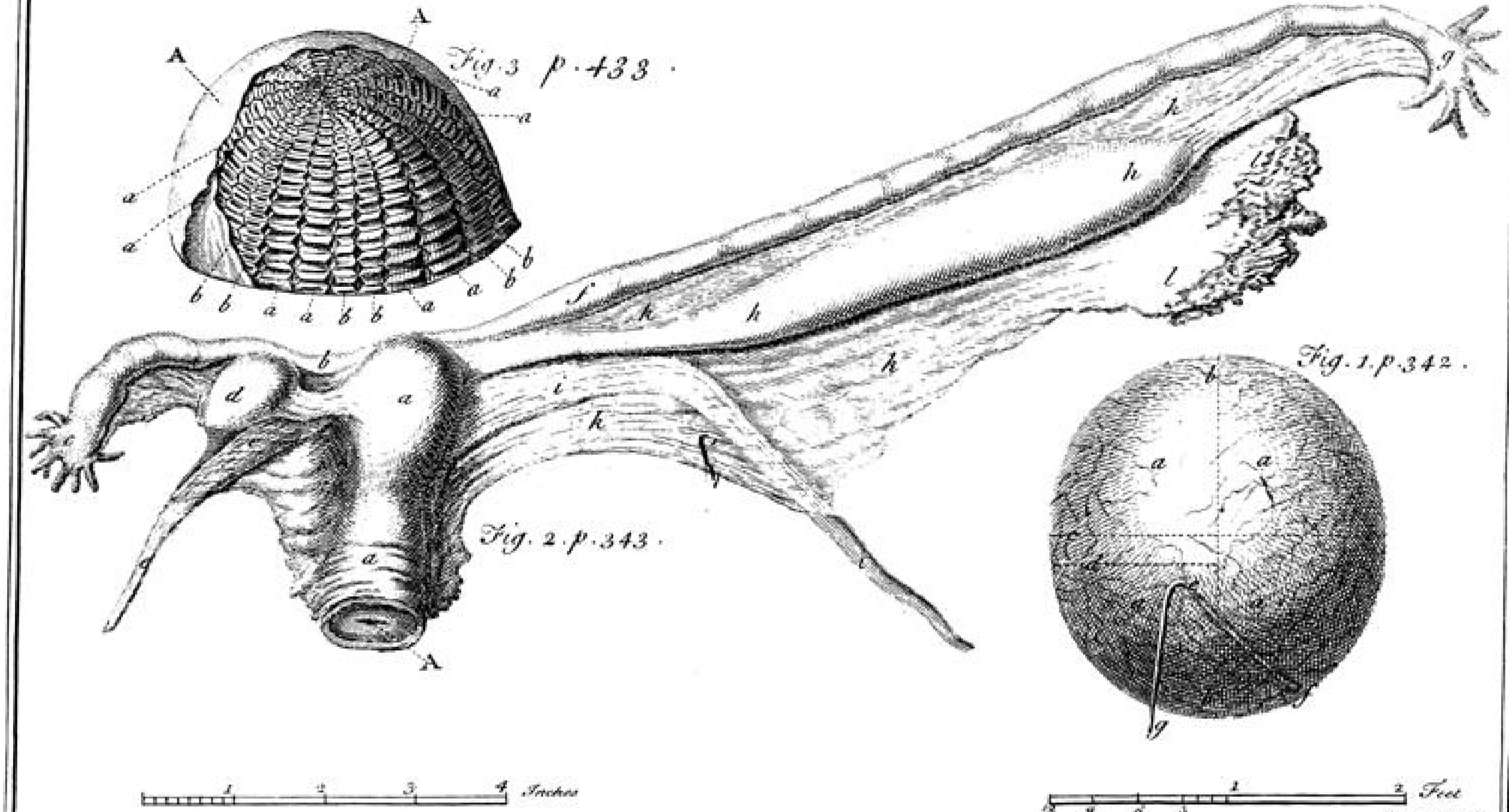

Fig. 3 p. 433.

Fig. 2. p. 343.

Fig. 1. p. 342.

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